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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 4 December 1952

SUBJECT Processing of Crude Oil Imported from the
Soviet Zone of Austria

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In the fall of 1951, the Russians ordered the DDR to start importing crude oil from Austria in spite of the objections of the Ministerium für Materialbeschaffung. Leuna had always received its tar oil from West Germany. However, in September 1951, the interzonal agreement was running out. The Russians thought that with no more interzonal agreement there would be no more tar oil from West Germany. Hence the Russians ordered Leuna to convert to the distillation of crude oil, of which there were two types - tar base and paraffin base. Litzkendorf preferred the paraffin base crude because it is easier to refine. So in order to forestall any friction, the Russians ordered that they take 50% tar base and 50% paraffin base. Litzkendorf had already been receiving 15,000 tons of crude per month from Austria anyway. Then, at the end of 1951, about 113,000 tons were received in the DDR within three months, in addition to the 15,000 tons monthly received by Litzkendorf. Therefore, Weissensee issued an order that Leuna, Espenhain and Böhlen had to refine the crude with Schwarzheide also taking a little.
2. At the present time, Litzkendorf uses mostly paraffin base crude, while Leuna and Espenhain get mostly tar base crude. From time to time, Leuna receives train loads of crude outside of the agreement. Leuna and Espenhain do the primary processing of the crude oil, removing the tar and paraffin, etc. The "Vorrprodukt" from Leuna and Espenhain goes to Schwarzheide and Böhlen for further processing. It is probable that Mittelbenzin is refined from crude oil because none was produced in the DDR before the middle of 1951.

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Comment: Probably the State Administration for Material Procurement under the State Planning Commission.

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